

from performance in organizational leadership and management to strategic planning and community contribution. It is excellence in these areas that characterize a Carey Award winner. The Loma Linda Medical Center has proven year after year that it not only exhibits these specific qualities but also performs them at the highest possible level.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I join today with the residents of the Inland Empire in congratulating our valued VA Medical Center for its remarkable achievement, and express my sincere admiration and deference to this magnificent medical center.

TRIBUTE TO REV. E. K. BAILEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of one of Dallas's finest people, my good friend Rev. E. K. Bailey.

Reverend Bailey, founder and pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, dedicated his life to the betterment of the city of Dallas. Dr. Bailey founded Concord in 1975 with fewer than 200 members and quickly turned it into one of the city's most vibrant African-American churches. Its current membership numbers 3,500.

In 1989, he founded E. K. Bailey Ministries Inc., a progressive non-profit organization that helps black pastors and lay leaders improve their own churches. He was a tireless public advocate who was not afraid to fight for his constituents. Dr. Bailey's accomplishments are great. When Dr. Bailey tackled a project, no matter how challenging, he did so with enthusiasm, vigor, and integrity.

He will long be remembered for his mission to provide the basic principles and practices of Biblical church growth to African American pastors and lay leaders in order to empower and revitalize African American churches to impact the world for personal and social change. Based in part upon the name recognition of Dr. E. K. Bailey in the African American community and the needs the organization was designed to meet, this ministry found instant credibility. At its first conference—Discipline and Developing the African American Male—over 600 men came to Dallas to learn and acquire resources to take back to their churches.

Above all else, Reverend Bailey was a devoted father and loving husband. Dr. Bailey is survived by his wife, Sheila, and their three grown children. Those who knew Reverend Bailey well understood that the time he spent with his wife and family were the greatest times of his life. After 33 years of marriage and three cancer diagnoses, he said "If I found myself in a ship, or on a ship, in the middle of a storm, there's only one person I'd want on that ship with me, and that's Sheila Bailey," he said.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Reverend E. K. Bailey. And I join with the city of Dallas and the State of Texas in mourning the loss of an outstanding citizen and friend.

HONORING BOB VAN WYK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Van Wyk for his 30 years service to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. A celebration in Mr. Van Wyk's honor will be held on Thursday, November 6th in Fresno, California.

In 1973, Bob completed a degree in Public Administration at California State University, Fresno. He was hired as an administrative assistant for the Flood Control District; however, he served most of his career as Assistant General Manager. In 2003, the Flood Control District's Board of Directors appointed Mr. Van Wyk Acting General Manager.

Bob has given much of his time to agencies that address the needs of the Flood Control District's constituents. He has served as District Representative to the Board of Directors of the Joint Powers Insurance Authority and has been a member of the Association of California Water Agencies Special District Advisory Task Force. His service as a community partner and respected agency representative has established productive, long-lasting agreements throughout Fresno County. These agreements have allowed the county to use the Flood Control District's facilities as parks, groundwater recharge sites, and community open spaces.

Bob's accomplishments have been numerous over the last 30 years, but he is most noted for his amiable character. His choice to treat people with respect and dignity has allowed him to see value in each person he meets. This kind demeanor has played a major role in his many successful years with the Flood Control District.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Van Dyk's 30 years of service to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and surrounding communities has not gone unnoticed. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Van Dyk and wishing him continued success.

HONORING THE GENEROSITY OF THE PEOPLE OF LAUGHLIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the people of Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona for their generous contributions to the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Colorado River. More than 400 people gave out of their pockets at the 2003 Margarita Fiesta and 10K Giveaway held at the River Palms Convention Center to raise more than \$24,000 for the Boys and Girls Clubs, a 20 percent increase over last year. These funds will be used to give young men and women of every background an opportunity to play and learn in a safe, caring, environment.

Once again Laughlin has proven that it is more than just a vacation resort, it is also a place to call home. I am honored to represent the generous people of Laughlin and look forward to next year's Fiesta.

HONORING DEANNA ESPINA, SAN LORENZO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN PROGRAM SPECIALIST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deanna Espina, who recently retired from the San Lorenzo Unified School District. Deanna will be honored at a reception and I join her friends and associates in thanking her for her many years of contributions.

Deanna began her 29 year career with the San Lorenzo Unified School District on October 14, 1974, as a community Relations Aide. After a few years, her classification was changed to Native American Indian Program Specialist assigned to Educational Services.

She has supervised various programs and also teaches youngsters about the Native American culture. She was always seeking innovative instructional strategies for students as evidenced by the Star-Lab lesson. The numerous hours spent preparing, organizing and coordinating the Star-Lab presentation for hundreds of students contributed to the Star-Lab Program's success.

With the San Lorenzo School District's support, Deanna has developed and advanced the Indian Education Program in the San Lorenzo schools in a commendable way. The Alameda County Office of Education has recognized her for the outstanding work she has done in meeting the needs of Native American students. She has played a significant role by providing leadership to sustain and foster a Native American Program that continually has value for students and the community.

Over 29,000 students, parents and teachers have participated in the Native American Museum, established in the San Lorenzo School District, due to the efforts of Deanna. The museum's presentations focus on many Native American cultures with emphasis on California's indigenous people. The school district's Native American program has been recognized at the federal, state and local levels and is a model for other Native American Programs in the United States.

Deanna's leadership, her knowledge of her projects, her enthusiasm, and commitment to the community through the years are exemplary. She has brought Native American Indian Education to the forefront and I applaud her outstanding contributions to education.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JOHN MCNIFF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of an exceptional individual who I am proud to represent in Congress, Bloomfield Police Chief John McNiff. Chief McNiff was honored by the Essex County Policemen's Benevolent Association on Friday, October 24, 2003, for his tireless commitment to serving his community.

Chief John McNiff has dedicated the past seventeen years to guaranteeing the safety

and well-being of the men, women, and children of Bloomfield, a beautiful community located in the heart of my district. He has begun a tradition of excellence in the Bloomfield Police Department—a tradition which, under his continued direction, will continue long into the future. It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

During a period in our history when hometown security has become such a critical issue, Chief McNiff has worked diligently to ensure the continued efficiency and effectiveness of the Bloomfield Police Department, while fostering its close relationship with the community. He has initiated programs designed to increase the capacity of his police officers to act as first responders, and balanced these programs with community-based initiatives geared toward maintaining a high quality of life for the citizens of Bloomfield.

Among the many innovative and successful programs that Chief McNiff has instated are the D.A.R.E. program, the Anti-Crime Squad, the Bloomfield/Newark Border Patrol, and the Community Policing Unit. Under his leadership, the Bloomfield Police Department has collectively worked with the Auto Theft Task Force and the Essex County Prosecutor's Narcotics Unit. Largely as a result of Chief McNiff's extraordinary vision and guidance, the Bloomfield Police Department now ranks among the best in Essex County, New Jersey.

The services rendered to the people of Bloomfield by John McNiff have been widely recognized. Chief McNiff has received commendations from organizations representing all levels of local, State, and Federal law enforcement, and has been publicly honored for his service both by the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly. Most recently, John McNiff was the recipient of the distinguished John I. Crecco Foundation's "Public Safety Award" and was recognized by the Ancient Order of the Hibernians for his work.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing individuals who have devoted themselves to serving the special needs of the people in their community. The integrity, dedication, and skilled leadership that Chief John McNiff has brought to the Township of Bloomfield is beyond compare.

I ask that you join our colleagues, the Essex County PBA, and me in gratefully recognizing the invaluable services that Chief John McNiff has provided to the men and women of Bloomfield, New Jersey.

WENTWORTH MILITARY ACADEMY MEMORIAL SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 12, 2003, a memorial service was held on the campus of Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Jim Ahrens presided. This service paid tribute to the many Wentworth Alumni who served in the military and paid the ultimate sacrifice. I commend the remarks of Lieutenant Colonel Ahrens to this body.

TEXT FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Invocation: Let us pray
Almighty and most merciful God. Look with favor upon us gathered here this morning—in thy presence—on this sacred ground, and inspire our hearts and minds as we lovingly celebrate the deeds of Wentworth Cadets, old boys, whose sacrifices—blood, sweat, and tears—made in the name of freedom and human dignity—shall stand forever as the foundation stones of our great nation. Bless us now, O God, that our thoughts, desires and deeds throughout this memorial service may be inspired by You according to Your holy name. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Friends: We gather here on this historic ground—this sacred ground—Cadet Corps, old boys and their families, Wentworth staff, faculty and friends—we gather here near the Memorial Chapel, its entrance guarded by the Mooney Memorial—just down this tree shaded hill from the doughboy and the Hall of Honor—to remember, to honor and to return thanks for Wentworth cadets who made the supreme sacrifice. We gather to lovingly remember Wentworth old boys who gave their lives in the service of their country. Today we are particularly mindful of the vets we single them out now for honor because, like other Wentworth old boys, they fought and served and some died courageously. It is now their time—their turn—for special recognition.

How thankful we are for their dedication, their loyalty, perseverance—for their patriotism. How thankful we are for their sacrifices made in the line of duty—in times of terrible trial and tribulation—crisis—peril—times of grievous suffering—times of war.

Alumni from Wentworth have served in eight conflicts and have sacrificed their lives in six of them.

41 served in the Spanish American war and two died.

3 are known to have served in the Philippine Insurrection and one perished.

At least 552 served in WW I and fourteen died, including one faculty member.

At least 813 served in WW II and 87 died, including another faculty member.

213 served in Korea and nine paid with their lives.

We don't know exactly how many served in the Vietnam conflict, but we know that eleven made the supreme sacrifice.

Approximately 30 served in the first Gulf War that we know of and apparently all returned at the end of the conflict. Many are serving, as we speak, in the second Gulf War, which includes the War on Terror.

These men gave their lives for all of us in this country. Because of the closeness of our alumni it seems as if they became a part of all of our lives and we all feel their loss. What we have to day is a heritage that is made all the more rich by what they gave for us.

Today we honor all who have given their lives. There is no doubt that their example has served as an inspiration for all of us to do what we can do to end conflict, but we all know equally well that we could be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice for our country and fellow humankind. We must also remember those Wentworth faculty, staff, cadets and acquaintances who are no longer with us as well as those who have died in the past year.

Memorial prayer

Let us pray. Almighty God, bless now our memories of Wentworth cadets—and their loved ones who waited patiently behind—bless our memories of old boys who made the supreme sacrifice—old boys who march no more in our ranks—who answer no more reveille roll call—who stand no more on the Quadrangle for sunset retreat.

Bless, oh God, our remembrance of them that the spirit of their heroism—their dreams of a better life in a world at peace their sacrifices for us—may inspire us here on this Wentworth campus, and wherever we go, to live together in brotherly love—according to your golden rule. May their memory live on—heartening and inspiring—teaching us the meaning of heroism, patriotism—brotherly love. And, O God, inspire us so we may never take for granted or forget our Wentworth heroes. May we be inspired in the days and weeks to come to walk a little slower by this Huey helicopter and the doughboy—to walk a little slower by the Mooney memorial, and in our hearts do an "eyes right and render a smart hand salute—as we pay our respects to our fallen comrades—Wentworth cadets who made the supreme sacrifice. Amen

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 567 I intended to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO 177TH FIGHTER WING OF THE NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Recently, the 177th received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) for exceptionally meritorious service from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001. The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, established by the Department of Defense in 1954, recognizes units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

During this two year period, the 177th accomplished its mission with a high degree of war readiness and combat capability. The Wing deployed highly trained, combat ready personnel in support of Aerospace Expeditionary Force 9. They were one of the first units to have its aircraft generated with live missiles and ready to fight shortly after the attacks on the World Trade Center. In addition to these accomplishments, the unit and its members have been recognized for its outstanding environmental stewardship, recruiting efforts, and community support.

The 177th is the home to 17 single seat F-16C, Fighting Falcon, aircraft and has been located at the Atlantic City International Airport in Egg Harbor Township since 1958. However, the 177th traces its roots back to September 1917 as the 119th Aero Squadron. The 119th Aero Squadron, an active duty training squadron during World War One, was demobilized in May 1919. In 1930, the 119th Observation Squadron was given federal recognition as part of the 44th Infantry Division, New Jersey National Guard, 119th Fighter Squadron at